

Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County (0605A) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County (0605A) in the summer of 2014 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County is an unclassified intermittent with pools water body that is approximately 41 miles in length. The creek is located in Henderson and Van Zandt counties. It was identified in the 2014 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2000.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County is appropriate. PCR 1 is defined in §307.3 (a) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as activities that are presumed to involve a significant risk of ingestion of water (e.g. wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, tubing, surfing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the field surveys, field staff observed fishing and kayakers with fishing gear. Interviewees reported a total of seven instances of personal PCR (i.e. swimming, children wading). There were no instances of witnessed or heard of PCR. Fishing occurs throughout the year on the stream. Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County had an average thalweg of 0.5 meters (19.68 in) and four pools deeper than 1 meter. Stream flow ranged from normal to no flow during both surveys. The Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) indicated moderately moist conditions during both field surveys. There is a public boat ramp and an improvised boat ramp, but there are no public parks on the stream. Many of the sites visited were at public road crossings. Private property boundaries generally limited access directly around and underneath bridge crossings.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence of Lake Palestine east of Brownsboro in Henderson County to the upstream perennial portion of the stream northeast of Murchison in Henderson County, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.